

MSK-5014
2 August 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - July 1985

I. GENERAL

The Embassy's central air conditioning system broke down and was out of operation for three days, from 22-24 July. This came during the sweltering heat and humidity of the Seoul summer, and offices quickly became uncomfortably warm and stuffy. This reminded the Bureau Chief of several months in Abidjan when there was no electricity due to a severe drought, and offices and houses could not be air conditioned until generators were procured. In an attempt to take Seoul staffers' minds off of the local discomfort, he regaled them with fascinating stories of "This is nothing, you should have been in Africa..." and "This kind of thing really starts to get to you after three or four months." He was mildly distressed to learn that Bureau employees evinced little interest, despite the fact that they had not had the opportunity to be tested by such adversity. He is now eagerly awaiting winter, when he will be able to tell the newcomers about walking to school during legendary Colorado snowstorms.

II. OPERATIONS

The continuing talks on various levels between North and South, along with the crackdown on students and other sectors by the ROK Government, helped keep the Bureau's monthly wordage at a near record level. July's wordage total of 716,000 was the second highest ever, and only 14,000 under the May record. Within the total, wordage from Seoul radio and vernacular papers continues to increase, and the Chinese Unit output seems to be stabilizing at a high level since the May coverage swap with Hong Kong.

1. The multilevel talks between North and South continued in July, generating a good deal of reportage and commentary from both sides. The Red Cross working-level talks were held on 15 and 19 July, and parliamentary exploratory talks on the 23d. In addition, the first MAC meeting between the U.S. and DPRK sides since last year was held on the 29th. The DPRK side's proposal to disarm the Panmunjom conference area attracted considerable interest on the part of Embassy and other key local consumers. And, after a lapse of several months, Pyongyang radio carried two Kim Il-song interviews with foreign journals. His interview with the Japanese leftist magazine SEKAI, 12 takes in length, attracted interest on the part of analysts for his comments on North-South relations and foreign policy.

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2. The ROK Government crackdown on university students, highlighted by the Seoul Prosecutor's Office report on its investigation into the Sammin Struggle Committee on 18 July, was a focus of attention during the month. A particularly volatile month in the ROK ended with the police placing dissident politician Kim Tae-chung under house arrest on the 31st, one day before the opening of a convention of the opposition NKPD. With the current political ferment the Bureau is continuing to process more material, particularly priority reportage, from Seoul radio and the vernacular press. This trend is expected to continue as long as the radio and papers continue their relatively open reportage of domestic events.

3. Chinese Unit output of PRC provincial material appears to have stabilized at a high level of 170,000-180,000 words monthly following the May coverage swap with Hong Kong Bureau. Seoul gained coverage of two provinces, Beijing and Hebei; and while wordage from Beijing City Service and BEIJING RIBAO has never been very high, the combined wordage from radio and press coverage of Hebei Province is substantial. Deputy Chief Barry Burton has been working closely with the unit, revising some established practices so that the unit's selection and processing more closely approximate those of Hong Kong and Okinawa Bureaus.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. [redacted] and their families left Seoul on 14 and 22 July respectively, for reassignment in Washington. Their replacements, [redacted] arrived in June and have settled into the Bureau routine.

2. Chinese Unit Chief [redacted] has been selected to participate in the 1985 foreign national orientation program in September. ✓

IV. VISITS

Okinawa Bureau Cruising Officer [redacted] was at the Bureau from 19-26 July, for follow-up training of the Bureau's part-time cruiser, Korean monitor [redacted]

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1. The Embassy Association sponsored a festive afternoon of food and games to celebrate July 4th. FBIS newcomers [redacted] showed commendable spirit by volunteering to lead the children's bicycle parade. Dressed to suit the occasion as Uncle Sam and Betsy Ross, the Burtons led the parade of decorated bikes and costumed children on a circuitous route through the Embassy housing area, ending at the Embassy picnic ground. A photographic record has been retained.

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2. [redacted] years in Seoul. he served on the

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[redacted] In recognition of [redacted] efforts on behalf of [redacted] he received a letter of commendation from Ambassador Walker praising his community service. The letter says in part: [redacted] dedicated and unstinting efforts paid off in major improvements in the club's appearance, atmosphere, and quality of service, and in Embassy employee morale.... [redacted] leadership has made [redacted] a major contributor to the Embassy community's morale, welfare, and productivity."

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[redacted]
Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

SEOUL BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR July, 1985I. TOTAL FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	716,000
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	145,980
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,564

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	13,265 min	5,850 min	104 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

CHINA (PRC)			
Beijing in			
Korean to Korea	4,150		
Beijing City Service in			
Mandarin	1,820		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	11,990		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	19,200		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in			
Mandarin	14,320		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	10,220		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	14,420		
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in			
Mandarin	3,150		
Tianjin City Service in			
Mandarin	4,700		
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in			1,150
Chinese			
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in			12,750
Chinese			
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in			8,150
Chinese			
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in			9,750
Chinese			
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in			10,700
Chinese			
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO IN			21,520
Chinese			
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in			20,820
Chinese			
Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO IN			6,870
Chinese			

CLANDESTINE
(Clandestine) Voice of the Revolutionary
Party for Reunification in
 Korean to South Korea

31,220

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
KOREA (NORTH)			
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	162,180		
Pyongyang KCNA in English		157,110	
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			5,700
KOREA (SOUTH)			
Seoul Domestidc Service in Korean	9,100		
Seoul YONHAP in English		31,850	
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			2,200
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			2,620
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			1,950
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			3,700
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			3,300
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			43,220
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			47,420
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			11,150
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean			10,450
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Korean to Korea	17,150		